

Australian

U.F.O.

Bulletin

PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

P.O. Box 43, MOORABBIN, 3189, Victoria, Australia

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL - CATEGORY B.

MAY, 1975.

SOCIETY EVENING TO BE REPEATED

The Committee would like to thank society member Guy Richards for making his premises available on March 22, and for the hard work he put in to successfully serve meals to a packed house. The evening was a great success, and because pressure of space forced us to turn down a number of requests to attend, Guy has kindly offered to hold a repeat of the function on Saturday night, June 21, commencing at 7.30 pm. The venue is Guy's Coffee Lounge, (Tel. 932408), Shop 7, Balcombe Walk, Mentone (Rear of 95 Balcombe Rd., near Mentone station). A light three course meal will be served, and Judy Magee and Paul Norman will give a slide-illustrated talk followed by discussion. Members wishing to attend should apply to the secretary by letter for tickets, enclosing payment of \$1.25 per person. Members may bring friends.

But please, don't embarrass Guy by turning up without a ticket!

MEMBERS' NIGHTS DISCONTINUED

The Society regrets to announce that the fortnightly members' nights must be terminated. Unfortunately, the premises we have used for the past six months are no longer available due to the floor being taken over by new tenants. The Committee, on behalf of members, extends to the President, Peter Norris, our grateful appreciation for his generosity in having made the rooms available to us at no charge.

Despite the inconvenience, the Society will continue with its research activities and publication of the newsletter while seeking new premises. Ideally, the Society would like to find an unfurnished room at little or no cost which could be used as an office and headquarters, not too far from the city. If any member can offer the use of such a room, or knows where one might be obtained, would he please contact Mr. Norris on 2119344, or Mrs. Briggs on 908819 (before 10 pm.).

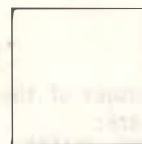
UFOS AND THE A.I.A.A.

The world's largest scientific organisation concerned with space exploration, the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics, has been interested in UFOs for a number of years. In 1967, realising that the problem lay within its area of interest, it asked its two technical committees most directly involved, the Committee

(continued on page 2.)

IMPORTANT

IF AN X APPEARS IN THIS BOX YOUR
MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Australian members...\$4.20 (Juniors under 18 years...\$2.10)
Overseas members...US\$2.50.

UFOS AND THE A.I.A.A. (continued)

on Atmospheric Environment, and the Committee on Space and Atmospheric Physics, to form a sub-committee to investigate the phenomenon. Accordingly, the UFO sub-committee was formed, under the chairmanship of Dr. Joachim K. Kuettner, of ESSA Research Laboratories, Boulder, Colorado, and, after making an objective investigation of the subject, the group made the following statement in the AIAA monthly journal, "Astronautics and Aeronautics", (Dec. 1968): "The committee has made a careful examination of the present state of the UFO issue and has concluded that the controversy cannot be resolved without further study in a quantitative manner and that it deserves the attention of the engineering and scientific community".

At about this time, the final report of the USAF-sponsored scientific investigation of UFOs, carried out at the University of Colorado, was released. The report of this group of scientists, which was headed by Dr. E. U. Condon, and known as the Condon Report, said in its conclusions: "Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby".

Apparently the AIAA was not entirely happy with the Condon Report, because after examining the Colorado data, it noted that 30% of the cases examined in detail could not be identified. The AIAA said in "Astronautics and Aeronautics" (Nov. 1971): "The opposite conclusion could have been drawn from the content of the report, namely that a phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study".

UFO Reports from AIAA Members

An article with this title appeared in "Astronautics and Aeronautics", May, 1974. Written by Peter Sturrock, Professor of Space Science in Stanford's School of Engineering and Professor of Astrophysics in its Applied Physics Department, the article reported the results of a survey carried out by the San Francisco Chapter of the AIAA. In the survey a questionnaire to obtain a cross-section of opinions concerning UFOs was sent to over 1,000 members, of whom 423 replied. The details of the questionnaire and the analysis of the results are too long to be dealt with here, but Sturrock reports: "The responses show no consensus whatever concerning the nature and scientific importance of the UFO phenomenon. Views cover the entire spectrum from 'impossible' to 'certain' in reply to the question, 'Do UFOs represent a scientifically significant phenomenon?'"

In addition, the questionnaire invited respondents to describe any UFO observations they themselves had made, and the article included first-hand reports from 18 members. Of these reports, it was admitted that some may have been explainable in terms of known phenomena, but the article commented: "...some of the reports are in fairly close accord with types of UFO observation classified by Hynek... It is notable that, of 21 or more events involved in the survey's returns, only two are said to have been reported. In no case did a scientist go on public record as having seen a strange phenomenon that he could not explain and might be related to the UFO phenomenon. So it appears, from this survey, that if you want to find out whether scientists see UFOs you must ask them, and you probably must guarantee them anonymity. This survey certainly achieved its chief aim. It shows that a sample of scientifically trained persons reports aerial phenomena similar to so-called "UFO reports".

British UFO Researchers Interview Dr. Kuettner

In England last year, Dr. Kuettner was interviewed by members of the British UFO Research Association and the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. According to a report on this discussion, published in the BUFORA Journal (Summer, 1974), Dr. Kuettner was of the opinion that, because little or no physical evidence is available, the most promising line of inquiry in analysing the problem and forming a hypothesis would be in the area of detailed statistical research. This approach has begun, of course, with the formation of Dr. Hynek's Centre For UFO Studies, which aims to collect a large volume of UFO data on a world-wide basis for statistical analysis. Dr. Kuettner agreed that it might be interesting to re-interview UFO witnesses after a couple of years about their experiences. From the article in the BUFORA Journal:

Dr. Kuettner thought the idea was a good one and could reveal some very interesting facts about witness behaviour. He had his own comments to make on the difficulty of accepting the evidence of a single witness. He had experienced the difficulty of describing a UFO. He had seen one while flying at night in an aircraft en route from Denver and still remembers the amazement at seeing a strange light pass by close to the aircraft. The sudden shock had made him incapable of reacting with a proper assessment of the situation, the aircraft had swerved to miss the lights and in the darkness, there was a distinct problem of orientation.

On the subject of UFO watches, Dr. Kuettner had a number of comments to make. What instruments could you take on a UFO watch? For instance, a magnetometer was useless unless there was a close encounter and cameras were always inadequate. In short, direct skywatching had not yielded anything important, we must concentrate on statistical analysis.... There were so many questions to be asked about UFOs and so few answers....

FARMER "NEAR FIVE UFOS"

New York - "Five silver domes, apparently on a probing mission", came within 15 feet of a Canadian farmer, a UFO investigator revealed last week. Ted Phillips, who works with Dr. Allen Hynek of the Centre For UFO Studies in Illinois, told of the eerie encounter as he detailed some of the 777 sighting reports he has checked in recent months.

"In September last year I went to Langenburg, Saskatchewan, where a farmer, Edwin Fuhr, came within 15 feet of five UFOs and observed them for up to 15 minutes", Phillips said. "Fuhr was working his crop when he noticed a dome standing in tall grass. He climbed down from his harvester, walked to within 15 feet, then froze - the dome was spinning and making a humming noise. He slowly walked backwards and, from a vantage point some 50 feet away, saw four more domes. One of them had probes extending from it as if examining the grass. He watched until one of the domes suddenly rose 200 feet, followed by the rest and in seconds they vanished".

Police took pictures of the flattened grass.

- Brisbane Sunday Sun, 16/3/1975.

BACK ISSUES OF "FLYING SAUCER REVIEW"

Seven different back issues of the Society's printed magazine "Australian Flying Saucer Review" are still in stock. Those available are:

Nos. 6 (Dec. 66), 7 (67), 8 (68)....40¢ each

Nos. 2 (July 70), 3 (Dec. 70), 4 (Feb. 72), 5 (Dec. 72)25¢ each.

Postage charges: For one copy...24¢ within Australia; 30¢ overseas (US currency)

two to four copies...33¢ " 45¢ " " "

five to eight48¢ " 60¢ " " "

SIGHTING AT CLAYTON

by Guy Richards.

On March 13th of this year, 1975, I visited the home of Mr. Ron Harper, in Clayton North. The purpose of this visit was to investigate a sighting made by him and his wife, Jenny, on February 28 of this year.

At some time between the times of 8.30 and 9 pm., Mr. and Mrs. Harper were drinking tea in the kitchen of their home when they both heard a strange humming sound. Mr. Harper said that whilst the pitch was extremely low, the sound had a great penetrating effect. He said that what drew his attention was the fact that the sound was unlike any other he had known. The humming ceased after about a minute and a half. Mr. Harper had by this time reached his front door with the intention of locating the source of the sound. It ceased as he reached the door.

When he stepped outside he saw a group of about eight people standing on the other side of the street watching something. He followed their gaze and saw an object hovering at an elevation of about 30 degrees in a north easterly direction. The object was the shape of an elongated trapezium, with flashing lights emanating from the entire length of the object. Mr. Harper estimated its size to be comparable with a cigarette packet held at arm's length, but could give no estimate of its distance. He had said that the humming appeared to be very close, which was what caused him to investigate it. There was a clear sky at the time and so no way of estimating height. Whilst he was not certain, he thought that there could possibly be some part of the object below the light. When first relating the incident, he mentioned something about it being just a haze effect, and later, when pressed for details, decided that there was possibly nothing below it.

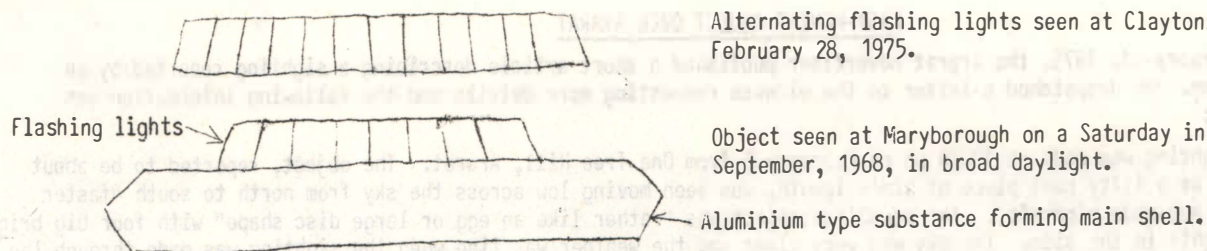
His wife Jenny also heard the sound, but followed her husband outside after about a minute. After a few seconds the couple returned inside. Later in the evening Mr. Harper went outside again to lock his car and said that the object could not be seen. I was not able to speak to his wife as she was on shift work.

After leaving Mr. Harper, I went to the other side of the road to try to find some of the other people who were seen observing the incident. The people were not able to help me.

While I was there he told me of a similar sighting he had made some seven years earlier in Maryborough. He could not give me the precise date, but it was a Saturday afternoon in September, 1968, at approximately 2 pm. The day was fairly clear with a few clouds, with the sun hidden behind one of these. The two witnesses, Mr. Harper and a friend, Ted Parker, of Maryborough, were laying on the grass of a football oval, gazing into the sky, when they sighted a saucer shaped object almost directly above them. Atop the aluminium coloured object was a trapezium shaped structure containing several alternating flashing lights. The object appeared to be the size of a matchbox at arm's length. After hovering for about two minutes, high above, and a little to the west of the two witnesses, it sped off and disappeared over the southern horizon.

What is of note is that the witness stressed that the object did not appear to accelerate, but seemed to attain instant velocity. Mr. Harper could give no estimate of the speed, but described it as incredible; far faster than any plane. The two witnesses had seen a jet plane pass over a short time before the incident, but it was not in sight during the sighting of the object. The only airfield in the area is for very light planes and is approximately four miles from the football oval.

I think that Mr. Harper may have had the previous sighting in mind when he described the latter one, as his imagination may have created the shape he thought he might have seen in the Clayton incident. Below are copies of the drawings done by Mr. Harper of the two objects. Notice that the superstructure of the first sighting is exactly what was seen the second time. I should point out that the witnesses to the Maryborough incident had the impression that the object was spinning whilst it was above them.

UFO IS SIGHTED

It's not a bird, it's not a plane, it's not a star. According to four Palm Beach residents, it's a band of multicoloured flashing 'police lights' revolving round an oval shape in the Gold Coast sky. The four residents, Ray and Val Piggins and John and Helen Strano, have all seen the flashing UFO more than once. They are next door neighbours and they last saw it from their gardens on Monday night.

"I went out on Monday night and when I returned at 9 pm., Ray told me the UFO was back", said Mrs. Piggins. "I had first spotted it a week earlier when I was lying in bed looking out of the window. It was about 9.30 pm and I woke Ray up to look at it. He said he thought it was just a star, but we went outside to have another look. Our 12 year old son, Glen, came with us and we stood on the lawn watching it for half an hour. What star or aeroplane is oval shaped and surrounded by a brilliant band of flashing red, green, blue and orange lights? When a thick white cloud covered the flashing object we went back to bed. Glen was quite frightened by it all and I couldn't sleep. I kept staring out the window and when the cloud eventually moved away the UFO was still in the same place. Soon after, the object faded out of sight as it began to move away".

Mrs. Piggins said her neighbour, Mr. John Strano, a light aircraft pilot, also saw the object. "He said it definitely wasn't a star or a plane. We lined it up with a telephone cable and noticed it kept shifting around".

Mr. Strano said he and his wife had seen the flashing object twice before. "My wife was ironing one night when she noticed the object over the Hinterland", said Mr. Strano. "She called me and we watched it until it took off at quite a speed. Then two months later, my two children, Jodie, 6, and Linda, 4, called me outside saying there was a flying saucer in the sky over the sea. That night it was at its most brilliant and going in all directions. I've never seen anything like it. It's a lot bigger than any star I've ever seen but the central oval shape is almost the same colour as a star. I've spoken to lots of people about our sightings and nearly all of them say they've either seen it in the Palm Beach area or they've heard about it. I don't really know what it is. It's got me baffled".

- Gold Coast Bulletin, 8/2/1975.

AIRLINE PILOT REPORTS SIGHTING

The following report was received from a commercial airline pilot, and describes an observation made on March 6, at 33,000 feet altitude during a flight between Melbourne and Adelaide:

We had departed Melbourne airport at 2134 EST/1134 GMT en route to Perth, W.A. During the climb, we encountered cloud which generated St. Elmo's Fire across windscreen segments L1 and R1 of the Boeing 727-100. I was flying in as co-pilot. At 61 nautical miles east of Mt. Gambier, the Flight Engineer sighted a falling green object ahead and slightly to the right of the aircraft nose, falling rapidly, no tail. The appearance of the object was that of a falling flare. I took no notice in the initial instance, being concerned at that time with verifying our estimated time of arrival over Gambier and being about to ask the Flight Engineer to note the exact fuel over Gambier for later point of no return assessment.

Ahead of us by some 5 minutes was the other domestic carrier's B727-100; that aircraft reported the sighting of the light to Adelaide control on transfer to Adelaide ATC over Gambier. We passed over Gambier at about 2200 EST/1200 GMT and took up a track of 278 degrees magnetic en route direct to Esperance, W.A. ATC asked us to comment on the sighting made by the other Boeing, a sighting which was also made by a domestic airline's Fokker F27 as it passed over Ardrossan, S.A., on a southerly to south easterly heading. I made generally confirmatory remarks over the radio; I gather the general impression that there was more than one light concerned over some small period of time.

At about 76 nautical miles west of Gambier, I noticed to the right of the aircraft and about 5 miles or so to the north of us, a greenish glow on the surface, visible with some diffusion through the layer of stratiform cloud below us. This I passed to Adelaide ATC, who confirmed the approximate area on a cross-check being made on the chart accessible to ATC. Immediately I tuned 500 KHz on the aircraft's number two Automatic Direction Finder, just on a punt. There was some feverish morse code activity for some short time, then silence. The ADF needle pointed to the greenish glow, then returned to the 090/270 degrees "Unuseable Signal" direction, on cessation of the morse coding. The coding was too fast to make out any letters clearly, and in any event, need not necessarily have been in plain language English, despite the fact that this was the maritime distress frequency. There was nothing to be heard on 121.5 Mhz, the VHF distress frequency, at any time. This I advised to Adelaide ATC, who acknowledged my message.

On return from Perth some six hours or so later, there was no visible evidence of any activity in this area, and the radios were silent on the aforementioned frequencies.

The other carrier's aircraft was at 31,000 feet AMSL on 1013 mbs at the time.

Latitude of the glow: 37 16 S; Longitude 139 10 E; approximate.

In further correspondence, the witness added the following details:

"Object seen above initially, falling slightly inclined to the vertical...I could not state with any certainty the arc of travel relative to me. I would guess at, say, five degrees, certainly not much less, but possibly considerably more...I'd say the total time someone had had it in sight would have been in the order of perhaps ten to twenty seconds, again a guesstimate only...The glow I referred to did not appear to be fluctuating, as in burning, nor did it appear to move in the short time I had it in sight - about 30 seconds...Being open-minded enough to admit that there are stranger things in fact than in fiction, I'm completely open to any info, and without wishing to be dramatic, the idea of a flare at 33 grand is a bit way-out; but, if that's what it was, then fair enough".

The sighting has been reported to the Centre For UFO Studies-Australian Co-ordination Section.

FAST-MOVING OBJECT OVER ARARAT

On February 11, 1975, the Ararat Advertiser published a short article describing a sighting reported by an Ararat man. We despatched a letter to the witness requesting more details and the following information was received:

The sighting was made at 10.30 pm on February 5 from One Tree Hill, Ararat. The object, reported to be about the size of a fifty cent piece at arm's length, was seen moving low across the sky from north to south "faster than any man-made aircraft". The soundless object was "rather like an egg or large disc shape" with four big bright white lights in the side. The sky was very clear and the weather was fine when the sighting was made through the witness's car windscreen. The witness stated: "When object was sighted, car stereo went mad and made all sorts of funny noises then restored itself to normal".

The witness supplied a sketch of the object, reproduced below, and commented: "The portholes were lit up or they gave off a bright reflection. The whole object gave off a bright light, but it was not too bright to blind my vision of it. It was visible for a few seconds, roughly about 5 seconds, then disappeared into nothing".

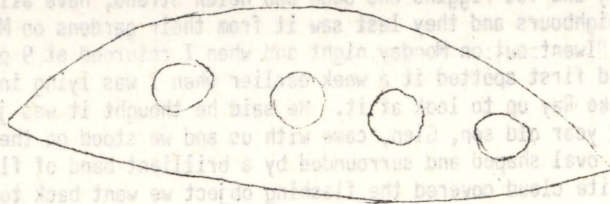
MYSTERY LIGHTS BAFLE TRAVELLERS

At least four people have reported seeing mysterious lights in the sky over central Victoria on Wednesday night (Jan 15). The lights, flashing red, green and yellow, were described as "like a plane" but without any sound.

Three nurses from Castlemaine Home and Hospital for the Aged, Phillipa Crowe, Jackie Lowrie and Vivien Milani, stopped their car beside the Calder Highway near Porcupine Hill at 10.40 on Wednesday night to look at the lights. Phillipa said the lights appeared to be about 600 feet above the ground. "At first we thought it was a plane coming down, but when we stopped the car and got out, there was nothing but silence and these lights", she said. "They were moving up and down and travelling towards Bendigo in short bursts of speed. I've never thought too much about flying saucers and that sort of thing, but this certainly scared me. I'm inclined to believe in such things now", said Phillipa.

Mr. Colin Hall, of Campbells Creek, reported seeing the lights 10 minutes earlier. He said they appeared to hover for a time in one spot, then move to another spot and hover again before moving off towards Bendigo. In Bendigo, police said they had received no reports of anyone seeing such lights.

- Bendigo Advertiser, 18/1/1975.



HORSHAM MAN SEES UFO - SECOND TIME!

A Horsham man believes he has seen a new type of unidentified flying object. Mr. Fred Randel, of River Rd., has seen the object in the night sky twice - a few days ago, and about the same time last year. "My heart nearly stopped", Mr. Randel said yesterday. He has unsuccessfully searched books about UFOs for reports of large cloud-like objects similar to those he saw near Horsham.

The first sighting was when he slept outside on a hot night soon after last year's Apex fishing contest, at which his wife, Elsie, won a Valiant Galant car. "It was a beautiful night and I was lying back looking straight up into the sky", Mr. Randel said. "I was wide awake - the mozzies wouldn't let me sleep! All of a sudden, my heart nearly stopped! There was a great big shadow, about 30 feet in diameter and at about the height of Noske's flour mill. It was a milky colour, almost like the bottom of a cloud, but it certainly wasn't a cloud".

Mr. Randel said he experienced a strange feeling just before he saw the object. He had the same 'funny feeling' before the second sighting when he slept outside before this year's fishing contest. "I knew a split second before that I was going to see it", Mr. Randel said.

It was between midnight and one am when he saw the object 'more or less' following the course of the Wimmera River on its south side, travelling from east to west. Mr. Randel said the object was noiseless and travelled about the same speed as a plane. It had no definite outline; but he believed it was made of metal because it was shiny and gave a reflection from lights near the river.

Mr. Randel said the sighting could not be attributed to faulty eyesight. "I can shoot 99 out of 100!", he said.

- Horsham Mail-Times, 19/3/1975.

UFO SEEN NEAR RYLSTONE

I am writing to report the sighting of what I believe was an unidentified flying object over my father's property, situated four miles from Rylstone between the Bylong and Lue roads. On the night of Monday, 17th February, my father sighted from the back of the house what he at first thought to be the lights of a pair of motor cycles, moving in unison to and fro across his paddocks. My father did not investigate immediately, but on going outside a few minutes later at approximately 8.35 pm., he watched the lights rise higher and travel further away, in a north westerly direction. The lights then remained suspended high above the horizon and appeared to remain stationary for about 15 minutes, before one light and then the other dipped below the horizon and disappeared from sight.

The lights would best be described as resembling stars, except that they were larger and brighter than ordinary stars and differed in colour. Both lights remained equidistant from one another, the one on the left being much larger and of a distinct orange hue. Between the two lights emanated an arc shaped glow of light.

Earlier in the evening, at approximately 7.25 pm., and for a few minutes afterwards, our television set crackled and temporarily lost its sound on two or three occasions, and once the picture twisted and rolled on the screen for no apparent reason. No particular significance was attached to the incident at the time, but in the light of the later events, one cannot help wondering if the two incidents were related. There does not appear to be any logical explanation for this extraordinary phenomenon.

Yours faithfully, Patsy McLeish (a former sceptic) "Kiloran", Rylstone.

- Letter to the editor, Mudgee Guardian, 21/2/1975.

MYSTERY UFO BAFFLES EXPERT

Two men, one trained as a UFO investigator, say they saw a bright light in the sky over Perth this morning. Mr. Barry Gardiner said he watched a bright light for about 20 minutes.

Bricksetter Mr. Gerald Harrison, 26, of Kingsfield Ave., Swanview, said he watched a bright light for about seven minutes. Mr. Harrison said it appeared to be over the Midland area as he approached Midland from Swanview. When he was in Toodyay Road he had a profile view of a cigar shaped object with a bright light at its head and possibly a red light at the tail. He thought it could have been a helicopter. It was the dash of speed that attracted his attention. It also seemed to have lights along the side, he said.

Mr. Gardiner, for 18 months UFO investigator with the RAAF at Pearce, said he could find no logical explanation for the object. He said he first saw the bright white light from his home in Brookton Highway, Kelmscott, shortly before 5.45 am. today.

"After about 10 minutes I called my wife and we watched it together. At one stage the light, which had the flicker of car headlights approaching from a distance, flared to twice its original brightness".

Mr. Gardiner said the object appeared to be at a height of about 2000 metres. It was slightly east of north about on line with Perth airport. After remaining stationary the light began to move slowly east. Eventually it passed behind the tree line.

Campers Dazzled By Light

A man told today of a mystery light he saw in the sky while he was camping in the bush. Mr. Dennis Craine, business manager, of McGill St., Kewdale, with his son, Paul, 10, and Mr. John Whithorn, were camped near Twin Peaks station, 600 km north of Perth on Thursday night. Said Mr. Craine: "We were lying in the open watching the stars and about to go to sleep when suddenly this intense bright light appeared from the south travelling north. It could possibly have been travelling at a height of between 2100 metres and 3000 metres. It hovered for several seconds and suddenly changed direction towards the north east and accelerated at a fantastic pace". He said they had all seen shooting stars many times. "This was quite different from a shooting star... there was no flaming tail...just this intense white light in the sky so bright that you could not make out its outline".

- Perth Weekend News, 25/1/1975.

STRANGE LIGHT SEEN OVER PERTH

Another report has come in of a "flying saucer" type light over Perth airport. Embleton couple Allan and Shiela Ottley and a friend said today they watched the light for about 15 minutes last week. They told the Daily News after reading of similar sightings made independently by two men on Saturday. Mr. Ottley said his group saw the light as they sat on his Irwin Road veranda facing the airport. "It was like a huge star - something like a saucer", he said. "It wasn't a plane or helicopter - we see lots of those. It made no sound. It hovered around then moved gradually out of sight".

(continued on page 6.)

STRANGE LIGHT SEEN OVER PERTH (continued)

Their friend, who did not want to be named, said: "After we had watched it about 5 minutes a helicopter and two small planes took off. Then it started to get very much brighter - just an enormous bright light. A star up against it would be like a cigarette lighter against a wartime searchlight. It made the little helicopter lights look like toys. Then it began this peculiar rocking motion like a noiseless bell".

- Perth Daily News, 28/1/1975.

UFO OVER DERWENT VALLEY DID IT LAND AT ROSEGARLAND?

A UFO, which was seen by a number of people as it flew the length of the Derwent Valley last Friday night, is thought to have landed at Rosegarland. Two young girls who telephoned the radio room at Hobart Police HQ claimed the UFO had landed, but it appears they were not taken very seriously. Unfortunately, the police in Hobart did not ask the girls for their names, and at the time of going to press, it had not been possible to interview the girls for a first hand account of their experience. Const. K. Britten of Bushy Park, said today he would like to contact the two girls. They are asked to get in touch with him at Bushy Park Police Station.

Understandably, the first call of a UFO - and particularly when it was claimed it had landed - was treated partly as a hoax. But soon after that call, there were others from New Norfolk, reporting a UFO flying from north west to south east about 8.15 pm.

"It was terrific", said Shayne Ransley, 13, of Sharland Ave., New Norfolk. Shayne, with sister Patricia, 10, and Ian Scripps, 15, had just left the rumpus room under the Ransley home when they saw a strange light in the sky. The youngsters described it as a "pulsing red light with an orange body". For a time it was still and then it moved up and down in a zig zag. Shayne used binoculars but could not distinguish any particular shape to the UFO. The UFO moved towards the east slowly, and then increased its speed: "It really went once it started - one minute it was there, and the next it had gone", Shayne said.

Miss Kaye McKeown, a university student, was travelling to Granton with her brother and his friend when they saw the UFO. "We saw a plane first, and then the UFO - there was no mistaking the UFO for a plane", Miss McKeown said. Miss McKeown said the UFO was an inverted U shape, and low in the sky as it moved from Dromedary direction towards Hobart. The three young people watched the UFO for two minutes before it flew out of sight. Miss McKeown recalled the UFO had lights, and it appeared to be spinning. The lights changed from red to green and then white.

Mr. Ken Bennetto of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre is inquiring into the sightings.....

- Derwent Valley Gazette, 19/3/1975.

According to the Hobart Mercury, 21/3/1975 :

....The girls said the UFO hovered over the hills, and directed a strong silvery light downwards which bathed the hillside in bright light. "There was little moon that night, the region was well off the normal course for aircraft, and there were no helicopters about", Const. Britten said....Six reports were made from the New Norfolk area about the same craft which alternately hovered, rose and fell in a zig-zag, and then shot off at high speed to the east....

And from the Derwent Valley Gazette, 26/3/1975 : "Girls did see a UFO"Two girls who called police last week to say they had seen a UFO in the night sky over Rosegarland had made a genuine sighting. The investigating officer for TUFIC, Mr. K. Bennetto, said this at the weekend... The reports were checked out with DCA officials, the Astronomical Society, and weather experts. "There was nothing that could be accounted for that was in the area at the time", Mr. Bennetto said.... "We have now logged it as a UFO", Mr. Bennetto said....

UFO OVER THE BUCKETTS? (from the Gloucester, NSW, Advocate, 4/2/1975)

An UFO "unlike a plane, far too bright and circular in shape" was reported to the Advocate this morning by a Gloucester resident, who wishes to remain anonymous. He made the claim following sighting an UFO above the Bucketts last night. His claim is supported by friends and family, he says. This is his story:

"Last night I was driving along the Avon Valley Road on my way to visit friends. It was just on dark and the evening star was shining very brightly above the Bucketts because the moon had not yet risen. I noticed a second star of equal brightness between the evening star and the Bucketts and it appeared to be moving south. Incredulously I stopped the car and lined the moving light up with a tree and sure enough it was travelling in a southerly direction. I proceeded to me friend and his family and they all viewed the moving light", he said.

He said he had not had one too many and there were witnesses. He said the light continued south towards the end of the Bucketts, when it then stopped and slowly descended straight down behind the Bucketts and appeared to land somewhere WSW of Gloucester. He later returned home and told his wife and family of the incident. Between 10 and 10.30 pm. his wife continued to look west but could see nothing. But then at about 10.30 she noticed the bright red light ascending from about the same direction from where it previously had gone from view. It was turning and climbing to take up a northerly course. "The object was viewed through binoculars and watched travel the entire length of the Bucketts range and gradually climbed to head off in a northerly direction", he said. The object appeared to be circular in shape and had a red pulsating light at the rear, and it also had what appeared to be lights on each side of the object. It was unlike a plane - it was faster and did not have the shape of a plane. The resident asserts that this is not the first sighting of UFOs in the Gloucester Valley. He has heard of many other sightings, particularly from farmers, who did not seek publicity for fear of ridicule....

Support For UFO Sighting over the Bucketts (from the Gloucester Advocate, 7/2/1975)

The reported sighting of an UFO over the Gloucester Bucketts on Monday night has been supported by four other Gloucester and district residents. The four, all of whom wish to remain anonymous, claim to have seen a similar sight at that time and place... One Gloucester resident claimed he heard a peculiar noise at that time from about that direction; another saw a large golden ball over the Bucketts about 10; two women from Waukivory claim that driving towards Gloucester that night they saw one larger half-moon shape and a few more surrounding it to form a triangle. They said the bigger one was an orange colour and the smaller ones were whitish. They sighted them to the right of the Bucketts. Another Waukivory woman claimed she saw the same sight on both Sunday and Monday nights after about 9 pm. On Sunday it was greenish and yellowish and glittered, and on Monday it was reddish with flashes circulating which later faded out.
